

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02024 212349Z  
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8581

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2024

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGENGN CI  
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION WITHIN CHILE AND OUTSIDE REGARDING THE DEATH LAST OCTOBER 22 OF CARLOS GUILLERMO OSORIO, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO SIGNED THE VISA REQUEST FOR WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL. AT HIS INITIATIVE, THE BROTHER OF GUILLERMO OSORIO, RENATO OSORIO, CAME TO THE EMBASSY MARCH 17, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS LAWYER, EUGENIO PUGA.

2. THE BURDEN OF THE MESSAGE CONVEYED TO EMBOFF IS THAT GUILLERMO OSORIO WAS MURDERED BECAUSE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MATTERS RELATED TO THE LETELIER AFFAIR AND THAT THE CRIME IS BEING COVERED UP BY HIGH-LEVEL GOC OFFICIALS. RENATO OSORIO ASKED FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN UNDOING THE COVER-UP. WE INFORMED HIM THAT USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE LETELIER CASE IS NECESSARILY LIMITED TO BRINGING TO JUSTICE THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF LETELIER AND MOFFITT AND THAT WE DO NOT SEE A DIRECT

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ROLE FOR US IN THE INVESTIGATION OF HIS BROTHER'S DEATH, EVEN THOUGH THERE MAY BE A CONNECTION.

3. RENATO OSORIO AND THE LAWYER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AVAILABLE EVIDENCE DOES NOT PRECLUDE SUICIDE. BUT THEY BELIEVE THE BULK OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE POINTS TO MURDER:

-- GUILLERMO WAS NOT DEPRESSED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS DEATH; RATHER HE WAS ELATED WITH HIS NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA AND TOLD RENATO OCTOBER 21 THAT HE WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY GET THE EVEN MORE COVETED POST OF AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY.

-- IN TELLING RENATO THIS, GUILLERMO HAD MADE THE STATEMENT THAT "THESE BASTARDS HAVE TO GIVE THEM (THE TWO AMBASSADORIAL POSTS) TO ME". THE IMPLICATION WAS OBVIOUS TO RENATO.

-- FOLLOWING A CEREMONY THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 22, GUILLERMO WENT TO THE MILITARY CLUB WITH CNI (EX-DINA) HEAD MANUEL CONTRERAS AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ENRIQUE VALDES. VALDES DROVE OSORIO HOME ABOUT 2 P.M.

-- FOLLOWING LUNCHEON OSORIO AND WIFE WENT TO THE BEDROOM TO REST. OSORIO COMPLAINED OF A HEADACHE AND GOT AN ALKA-SELTZER, TRACES OF WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND ON HIS HANDS. (RENATO OSORIO DOUBTS THAT A MAN PLANNING SUICIDE WOULD WORRY ABOUT A HEADACHE; HE THINKS THAT GUILLERMO MAY HAVE BEEN DRUGGED, EITHER IN THE DRINKS AT THE MILITARY CLUB OR DURING LUNCHEON).

-- THE SINGLE SHOT THAT KILLED OSORIO AT ABOUT 3:30 P.M. ENTERED HIS FOREHEAD, AND UNUSUAL ENTRY POINT, AC-  
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CORDING TO RENATO.

-- THE MAID THEN DASHED UPSTAIRS BUT WAS TOLD BY OSORIO'S WIFE NOT TO COME IN.

-- APPARENTLY, THE FIRST PERSONS CALLED BY MRS. OSORIO WERE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VALDES AND SOME OF HER RELATIVES. IT IS NOT CLEAR, FROM RENATO'S ACCOUNT, WHEN MEDICAL AND LEGAL PERSONNEL WERE CALLED BUT THEY DID NOT ARRIVE ON THE SCENE UNTIL ABOUT 6 P.M.

-- BY THAT TIME ARMY CHIEF GENERAL FORESTIER HAD ALSO ARRIVED AND IT WAS HE WHO INSISTED THAT THERE BE NO AUTOPSY AND THAT THE CAUSE OF DEATH BE SHOWN AS A HEART ATTACK.

4. RENATO WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE COURTS TO ORDER AN AUTOPSY IN NOVEMBER AND THE BODY WAS EXHUMED. THE INVESTIGATION IS NOW ALMOST COMPLETE BUT MRS. OSORIO STANDS STEADFASTLY BEHIND HER STATEMENT THAT GUILLERMO'S DEATH WAS A SUICIDE-- AND THAT IS WHERE THE MATTER RESTS. RENATO OSORIO AND THE LAWYER DO NOT THINK

THAT MRS. OSORIO KILLED HER HUSBAND BUT THEY DO BELIEVE  
A THIRD PERSON ENTERED THE HOUSE AND KILLED GUILLERMO  
WHILE ASLEEP (AND POSSIBLY DRUGGED) -- WITH GUILLERMO'S  
PISTOL AND GUILLERMO'S FINGER ON THE TRIGGER. QUITE  
OBTAINING, IN THIS SCENARIO, MRS. OSORIO WOULD HAVE  
BEEN A VERY WITTING ACCOMPLICE.

5. COMMENT. THAT OSORIO MAY HAVE BEEN  
MURDERED IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE: EITHER BECAUSE OF  
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE LETELIER ASSASSINATION OR BECAUSE  
HE WAS USING SUCH INFORMATION TO BLACKMAIL SUPERIORS.  
OTHER THEORIES, NOT TOUCHED UPON BY RENATO OSORIO,  
INCLUDE THE RUMOR THAT MRS. OSORIO HAS HAVING AN AFFAIR  
WITH A HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICER (WHICH COULD  
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SUPPORT EITHER THE SUICIDE OR MURDER THEORIES), AND  
THAT, DESPITE APPEARANCES, OSORIO WAS SEVERELY DEPRESSED  
OVER FAMILY PROBLEMS -- INVOLVING HIS FIRST WIFE AND  
CHILDREN AS WELL AS THE SECOND MRS. OSORIO -- (THEREFORE,  
SUICIDE).  
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